

## Message Text

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41

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

SAB-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, PN, PQ, US

SUBJ: 31ST GA: REPLY TO PANAMANIAN STATEMENT ON CANAL  
NEGOTIATIONS AND PANAMANIAN RESPONSE

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT BY  
AMBASSADOR BENNETT DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 8 IN RESPONSE TO  
PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD'S GENERAL DEBATE  
STATEMENT (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

2. APANAMANIAN PERM REP ILLUECA MADE AN IMPASSIONED AND  
FIRY REPLY ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES. HE  
SAID THAT THE DISINTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND OUR GOOD FRIEND" AMBASSADOR BENNETT  
ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND THE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT. RE-  
FERRING TO BIPARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY, HE SAID, THAT  
IF THERE IS A BIPARISAN FOREIGN POLICY, IT MUST APPLY  
TO PANAMA AS WELL. IN THE CASE OF PANAMA, HE CONTINUED,  
THERE HAD BEEN NO MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATORS SINCE MAY  
AND A CONDITION OF GREAT DIFFICULTY HAS EXISTED IN  
PANAMA FOR A LONG TIME DURING DIFFERENT  
ADMINISTRATIONS WITHOUT ANY SOLUTION.

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3. ILLUECA CONTINUED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD HAD DIRECTED HIS REMARKS TO THE "JUST AND WISE" PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD KNOW THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH OF THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA.

4. ILLUECA DESCRIBED EXAMPLES OF ALLEGED RACISM IN THE CANAL ZONE, THE REQUIREMENT THAT PANAMA PURCHASE WATER FROM THE UNITED STATES AND REPEATED BOYD'S PARALLEL BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT OF PANAMA. HE REFERRED TO THE BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1964, WHICH HE SAID FOLLOWED THE DIRECTING OF US WEAPONS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS, AND SAID THAT THE US WANTS TO TURN ITS WEAPONS AGAIN ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

5. ILLUECA SAID THAT PANAMA HAS NO WISH TO OFFEND PRESIDENT FORD OR GOVERNOR CARTER, WHO ARE TWO OUTSTANDING AMERICANS, BUT PANAMA IS OFFENDED TO WITNESS THEIR STRUGGLE TO SEE WHO IS THE MOST LIKE RONALD REAGAN.

6. HE SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT BENNETT SAID NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE PURSUED BUT THAT PANAMA WILL WANT THEM TO TAKE THE RIGHT COURSE LEADING TO AN IMMEDIATE END TO US JURISDICTION OF PANAMANIAN TERRITORY.

7. FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING, BENNETT AND ILLUECA HAD FRIENDLY TALK IN LUNGE. ILLUECA ACKNOWLEDGED POLITICAL REALITIES AT HOME HAD LED TO PANAMANIAN RHETORIC. BENNETT SAID HE WOULD OFFER FRIENDLY ADVICE THAT INSERTION OF CANAL ISSUE INTO MIDDLE OF OUR ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WAS NOT THE WAY TO GET A TREATY.

8. QUOTE

I RISE WITH REGRET, AND ADMITTEDLY IN CONSIDERABLE PERPLEXITY, TO OFFER A BRIEF REPLY TO CERTAIN REMARKS MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS MORNING. LET ME MAKE TWO OR THREE POINTS FOR THE CLARIFICATION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA HAS TODAY ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL OPPONENT IN OUR CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. HE HAS ALSO ATTACKED THE CREDIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR MY DELEGATION TO PERCEIVE HOW SUCH ATTACKS

ON UNITED STATES LEADERS CAN ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF EFFORTS TO REVISE EXISTING TREATY ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING THE PANAMA CANAL.

IN HIS REMARKS THIS MORNING THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA ASSOCIATED THE PANAMA CANAL TALKS WITH CURRENT EFFORTS UNDER WAY TO BRING A SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS. LET ME EMPHASIZE HERE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN BEHALF OF ACHIEVING MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO ENSURING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND POLITICAL EQUALITY. MY DELEGATION HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA, OR ANYONE ELSE, WOULD CAST ASPERSIONS ON THESE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED, AND HAS BEEN FOR ALONG TIME, TO WORKING OUT A TREATY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA TO REVISE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE PANAMA CANAL. THIS VERY MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA HAVE AGREED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS ON A NEW TREATY.

THE INTEGRITY AND COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE ARE THUS ONCE MORE DEMONSTRATED BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, MADE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUSY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. UNQUOTE  
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